

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV BASKETBALL PLAYER, FORMER U.S. STAR,
CRITICIZED FOR MORMON ACTIVITIES

1. YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREMOST BASKETBALL PLAYER, FORMER BRIGHAM YOUNG STAR, KRESIMIR COSIC, HAS RECENTLY BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PRESS FOR ORGANIZING A MORMON SECT IN ZADAR. ACCORDING TO JULY 9 VECERNI NOVOSTI, COSIC AND SEVEN FOLLOWERS ARE CELEBRATING MORMON RITES IN A BASEMENT APARTMENT IN ZADAR, WHICH ALLEGEDLY HAS LEFT "THE WHOLE CITY SURPRISED AND INDIGNANT." THE LC AKTIV OF THE ZADAR BASKETBALL CLUB NOTED THAT COSIC HAS RIGHT TO BE A BELIEVER, BUT CLAIMED THAT HIS ACTIVITY IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ROLE OF A PROMINENT SPORTS FIGURE. IN ADDITION, THE ZADAR BRANCH OF THE VETERANS ASSOCIATION HAS REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT THE COSIC CASE BE "SOLVED" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; CLAIMING THAT THE ZADAR LC COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THEIR DEMAND.

2. RIJEKA DAILY, NOVI LIST, ALSO REPORTS THAT COSIC HAS ORDERED SERBO-CROATIAN TRANSLATIONS OF TWO MORMON TRACTS PRINTED IN QUANTITIES UP TO 50,000 COPIES. HOWEVER, THE PUBLISHING COMPANY HAS REFUSED TO PRINT THEM UNTIL COSIC RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM THE CROATIAN SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

3. NOVI LIST CONCLUDES THAT ALTHOUGH THE COSIC AFFAIR IS
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OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE, IT UNDERLINES THE NECESSITY FOR STRICTER

CONTROLS OVER THE DEPARTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO STUDY ABROAD.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT COSIC'S MORMON TEAMMATE, OSTARCEVIC, MAY
SOON APPLY FOR A VISA TO ATTEND BRIGHAM YOUNG.

4. IN A CONVERSATION APPROXIMATELY 2 MONTHS AGO WITH AN OFFICER
OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL, COSIC STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN STRONGLY
CRITICIZED FOR HIS MORMONISM IN ZADAR. COSIC ALSO NOTED THAT
LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ZADAR HAD ACCUSED THE MORMON CHURCH OF
WORKING WITH THE CIA.

5. IN THE PAST YEAR, MORMON CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VIENNA
HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE POST AND WITH YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES ABOUT
THEIR DESIRE TO LAUNCH CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA. FORMER
TREASURY SECRETARY DAVID KENNEDY HAS ALSO MADE CALLS HERE ON
BEHALF OF THE MORMON CHURCH.

6. COSIC (AS WELL AS SEVERAL TEAMMATES FROM THE YUGOSLAV NATIONAL
TEAM) HAS RECENTLY BEEN CALLED UP TO FULFILL HIS LEGAL OBLIGATION
TO PERFORM ONE YEAR'S MILITARY SERVICE. (COMMENT: IN A RECENT
CONVERSATION WITH A CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER, COSIC INDICATED
THAT HIS INDUCTION WAS NOTHING OTHER THAN ROUTINE AND THAT
HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO PLAY FOR THE OLYMPIC TEAM IN 1976.)
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